

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TOAST BY PRESIDENT FORD ON RHINE CRUISE

THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
ABOARD M.S. DRACHENFELS ON THE RHINE, GERMANY, SUNDAY,
JULY 27, 1975.

PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND DISTINGUISHED FRIENDS: I AM
PLEASED AND HONORED TO RESPOND TO SUCH A GRACIOUS
RHINELANDER ON THIS BEAUTIFUL RIVER WHICH HAS WITNESSED
THE GROWTH OF GERMAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION.

AS WE ARE PASSING MANY SHIPS, BEARING FLAGS OF DIFFERENT
NATIONS, THIS GREAT EUROPEAN RIVER SYMBOLIZES OUR HOPE
FOR EXPANDING THE FLOW OF PEACEFUL COMMERCE AND EXCHANGE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. JUST AS MANY SOLID BRIDGES SPAN
THE MAJESTIC RHINE, STRONG LINKS OF FRIENDSHIP UNITE
OUR TWO NATIONS.

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I EXPERIENCED THIS FRIENDSHIP ANEW TODAY WHEN I MET

WITH YOU, WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, WITH THE OTHER
DISTINGUISHED LEADERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND RECEIVED
THE WARM GREETINGS OF SO MANY CITIZENS OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC. OUR RELATIONSHIP IS BASED UPON A TRADITION
THAT IS AS OLD AS THE UNITED STATES WHICH NOW APPROACHES
ITS 200TH YEAR OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

EVERY AMERICAN SCHOOLCHILD KNOWS HOW GENERAL VON
STEUBEN CAME TO HELP GEORGE WASHINGTON WIN THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION. ALL AMERICANS ARE PROUD OF THE INFUSION
OF GERMAN TALENTS, THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, INTO AMERICA,
A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS.

TODAY WE VISITED SOME OF THE FINE SOLDIERS OF OUR TWO
NATIONS AND THEIR FAMILIES. I WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE
THIS COOPERATION AND RAPPORT AND TO KNOW THAT WE ARE
DEDICATED TO CONTINUING THIS PARTNERSHIP IN OUR COMMON
DEFENSE. THIS COMMITMENT AND ENDEAVOR ARE FUNDAMENTAL
TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC AND BERLIN--AND TO THE ENTIRE ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE.

I THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME WHICH THE GERMAN
PEOPLE HAVE EXTENDED NOT ONLY TO ME, TO MRS. FORD, AND
TO MY SON, BUT ALSO TO EVERY AMERICAN STATIONED HERE
AND THEIR FAMILIES. FEW PEOPLES ARE MORE UNITED THAN
AMERICANS AND GERMANS IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES
OF INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

TODAY WE SPEAK OF BOTH EAST AND WEST WITH NEW EMPHASIS
ON OUR COMMON FUTURE. MUCH EFFORT HAS GONE INTO
INCREASING CONTACTS AND COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLES
OF EUROPE. WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES. THE
FORTHCOMING MEETING IN HELSINKI OFFERS HOPE FOR FURTHER
PROGRESS. WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO. AMERICANS LOOK
FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION NOT ONLY WITH THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC BUT WITH ALL THE NATIONS OF EUROPE.

MR. PRESIDENT, LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH HAS PASSED
SINCE WE SO GREATLY ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
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THE SPIRIT PREVAILING AMONG US TODAY STRONGLY
REAFFIRMS THE GENUINE AND CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP
AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF OUR PEOPLES. IF YOU WILL
RAISE YOUR GLASS WITH ME, I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A
PARTICULARLY CORDIAL PROSIT TO PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND
TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND ITS PEOPLE.
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